

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are active in the present application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended for clarity. The amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the two or more azo compounds may be of formula I and/or formula II. Claims 3, 5 and 7 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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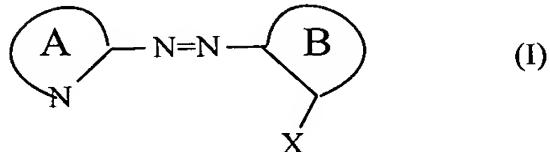
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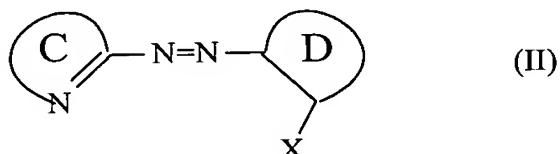
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OF SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a laser-writable and/or readable recording layer provided thereon, wherein said recording layer contains a chelate dye comprising two or more azo compounds having different structures and a divalent or more metal ion, and said azo compounds are [respectively] selected from azo compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and the following general formula (II):

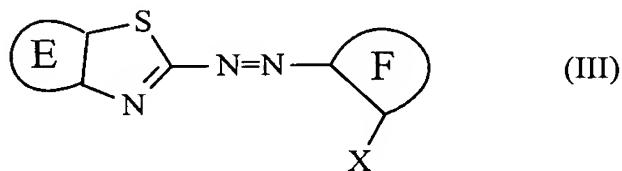


wherein ring A represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring B represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen;



wherein ring C represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring D represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

3. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein two or more azo compounds contained in one molecule of the chelate dye are represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein ring E represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring which may have substituent(s), or an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring F represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, or a condensed ring of an aromatic hydrocarbon ring with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have a substituent other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

4. (Amended) [An] The optical recording medium [which comprises a plurality of chelate dyes as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3] as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a plurality of said chelate dyes.

5. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, [2 or 3,] wherein said chelate dye accounts for 5 mol% or more of the total amount of the dyes contained in the recording layer.

7. (Amended) The optical recording medium as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the residual moiety except said chelate dye of all the dyes contained in the

recording layer comprises chelate dyes having, as the ligands, azo compounds of the same structure alone selected from the azo compounds represented by the general formula (I) or the 15 general formula (II).--